

In the Claims:

1. **(currently amended):** A pigment whose particles have a length of from 2 μm to 5 μm , a width of from 2 μm to 2 μm and a thickness of from 50 nm to 1.5 μm and a ratio of length to thickness of at least 2 : 1, the particles having a core of a metallic reflecting material having two substantially parallel faces, the distance between which is the shortest axis of the core, comprising
 - (a), optionally, on one parallel face of the core, an SiO_y layer wherein $0.95 < y \leq 2.0$, ~~especially $0.95 < y \leq 1.80$,~~
 - (b), on one parallel face of the core or, if an SiO_y layer is present, on the SiO_y layer, an SiO_x layer wherein $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$, ~~especially $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.5$, very especially $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.30$, and~~
 - (c), on the SiO_x layer, an SiO_z layer, wherein $0.95 < z \leq 2.0$, ~~especially $1.0 \leq z \leq 2.0$.~~
2. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to claim 1, comprising
 - (a), optionally, on one parallel face of the core, an SiO_y layer, wherein $0.95 < y \leq 1.80$, ~~especially $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$, very especially $1.40 \leq y \leq 1.80$,~~
 - (b), on one parallel face of the core or, if an SiO_y layer is present, on the SiO_y layer, an SiO_x layer wherein $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$, ~~especially $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.5$, very especially $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.30$, and~~
 - (c), on the SiO_x layer, an SiO_z layer, wherein $1.0 < z \leq 2.0$, ~~especially $1.4 \leq z \leq 2.0$, very especially $z = 2.0$.~~
3. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 2~~, wherein the metallic reflecting material is selected from Ag, Al, Au, Cu, Cr, Ge, Mo, Ni, Ti, Zn, alloys thereof, graphite, Fe_2O_3 and MoS_2 .
4. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to claim 3, wherein the thickness of the core is from 20 to 100 nm, ~~preferably from 40 to 60 nm.~~
5. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to ~~any one of claim~~ ~~[[s]] 1 to 4~~, wherein the thickness of the SiO_x layer (b) is from 5 to 200 nm, ~~preferably from 5 to 100 nm.~~
6. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to ~~any one of claim~~ ~~[[s]] 1 to 5~~, wherein the thickness of the SiO_y layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm, ~~preferably from 100 to 500 nm.~~

7. **(currently amended):** A method for producing the pigment according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:
- a) vapour-deposition of a separating agent onto a carrier to produce a separating agent layer,
 - b) vapour-deposition of an Al layer onto the separating agent layer,
 - c) optionally, vapour-deposition of an SiO_y layer onto the Al layer,
 - d) vapour-deposition of an SiO_x layer onto the Al layer or, if present, onto the SiO_y layer, wherein $0.95 \leq y \leq 1.80$, ~~especially $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$, very especially $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.50$,~~
 - e) optionally, vapour-deposition of an SiO_y layer onto the SiO_x layer,
 - f) dissolution of the separating agent layer in a solvent,
 - g) separation of the SiO_x-coated aluminium flakes from the solvent.
8. **(currently amended):** A pigment ~~obtainable~~ obtained by the method of claim 7.
9. **(currently amended):** A composition comprising a pigment according to ~~any one of claim~~ any one of claim ~~[[s]] 1, to 6, or 8.~~
10. **(currently amended):** ~~The use of a pigment according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or 8 in~~ A paint ~~[[s]], textile [[s]], ink-jet printing, cosmetic[[s]], coating compositions, plastic [[s]], or printing ink~~ [[s]] composition or a ~~and in~~ glaze ~~[[s]] for ceramics and glass comprising a pigment according to claim 1.~~
11. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.5$.
12. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 2, wherein $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$, and $1.4 \leq z \leq 2.0$.
13. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 3, wherein the thickness of the core is from 40 to 60 nm.
14. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO_x layer (b) is from 5 to 100 nm.
15. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 4, wherein the thickness of the SiO_x layer (b) is from 5 to 200 nm.

16. **(new)**: A pigment according claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO_y layer (a) is from 100 to 500
17. **(new)**: A pigment according claim 4, wherein the thickness of the SiO_y layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm.
18. **(new)**: A pigment according claim 5, wherein the thickness of the SiO_y layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm.
19. **(new)**: A method according to claim 7, wherein $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$.
20. **(new)**: A paint, textile, ink-jet printing, cosmetic, coating or plastic, or printing ink composition or a glaze for ceramics and glass comprising a pigment according to claim 3.